1937 33rd Street
San Diego, California 92102
August 13, 1978

Editor
PRIDE
3043 "E" Street
San Diego, California 92102

Dear Editor,

My congratulations to you and the staff of Pride for having the courage to launch a new effort to produce a local news publication for the gay women and men of San Diego. Initial conversations with organizers have raised my hopes that we might have in Pride a gay publication that will concentrate its efforts on news and features relevant to gay concerns without assuming that the only way to get our attention is to drape the cover and center folds with dewy-eyed semi-nude males. I object to such a format because it immediately makes the publication hard to take seriously, and helps to perpetuate the erroneous notion that gay people are sexually obsessed. It offends my intelligence, excludes or alienates lesbians (one-half of our community) and sets a poor role model for the newly-emerging gay generation.

With the coming struggle over the Briggs Initiative, more and more of the majority community will be taking a close look at us. The way our publications look says more about us than the printed matter inside. And a non-sexist, high-consciousness local gay publication is urgently needed in San Diego. The success of quality news publications for local gay communities around the country such as Boston's Gay Community News and San Francisco's Bay Times convinces me that we can do as well here.

I am by no means prudish about nudity or freedom of sexual expression. I do think, however, that there are more than enough publications already available to deal with these subjects, and I don't wish to wade through the same thing issue after issue in search of news.

Most of this letter has been talking about what I hope Pride will not be. Please forgive me if that seems like a negative approach. I'm not knocking any publication of the past or present but rather I'm expressing hope for the future.

My best wishes to the editors and staff of Pride for a popular and successful newspaper that will truly become the voice of our community. I urge San Diegans to support Pride and help it grow through participation and constuctive criticism.

Yours in the struggle,

Jess Jessop

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